

Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program

Request for Pre-Proposals

The Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) is requesting project pre-proposals for funding in FFY 2006, related to priority “Action Items” in the BBNEP’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), Monitoring Program Plan (MPP), and identified Data Gaps, as part of its annual work plan. These documents can be found at <http://www.bbep.org>. BBNEP supplemental funding is provided annually to help underwrite the cost of implementing the following types of projects in the Barnegat Bay watershed (i.e., Ocean County):

Pollution Control Activities; Monitoring and Research; Habitat Restoration; Public Outreach and Education

IMPORTANT DATES ‘06:

2/13 Pre-Proposals Due
3/30 Full Proposals Due
6/30 Award Notification
10/1 Anticipated Commencement of Funding

A formal review process is used to evaluate relevance and technical merit of projects proposed to address program priorities. The following guidance is being provided on priority issue areas for funding consideration:

(1) Implementation Priority Projects

Up to \$75,000 is available to implement “on-the-ground” implementation projects that are aligned with the goals of the CCMP. Pre-proposals should focus on discrete projects that fulfill the intent of these comprehensive actions so as to serve as pilot projects or as examples for additional future implementation activities. Pre-proposals addressing the following CCMP priority actions are highly recommended:

- (a) Completion of a high-intensity Natural Resources Inventory of Lake Caraslajo or Long Swamp Creek, supporting planning activities that were previously funded by NJDEP, in order to identify and control pollution sources from land use (Action Item 5.2). Priority projects will strive to reduce fecal coliform and/or increase baseflow.
- (b) Improving water quality in the Bay and its watershed by implementing Phase II Municipal Stormwater Rules in the Barnegat Bay watershed (Action Item 5.4).
- (c) Implementing actions and facilitating partnerships to conserve, restore, or enhance natural habitats of Barnegat Bay and its watershed. Protect and improve vegetated buffer zones adjacent to coastal wetlands and freshwater tributaries to maintain continuous riparian corridors for habitat protection and low-impact recreational pursuits (Action Items 6.1 and 6.8).

(2) Scientific/Technical Priority Projects

Up to \$75,000 is available to implement scientific/technical projects that are aligned with the goals of the CCMP, specifically related to ecosystem management. Research priorities include collection of new data and/or evaluation and interpretation of existing information relating to priority Primary Indicators, or relating to Secondary Indicators and established data gaps as described in the BBNEP Monitoring Program Plan (available on-line at <http://www.bbep.org/resources.htm>). For this funding cycle, the priority Primary Indicators include Signature Species (hard clam, osprey, colonial nesting birds, and breeding birds) and Watershed Integrity. Proposals relating to the evaluation of Primary or Secondary Indicators should address one or more of the specific monitoring questions posed for the respective indicator in the Monitoring Program Plan. Pre-proposals addressing the following CCMP priority actions are highly recommended:

(a) Evaluation of primary indicators

Two of the primary indicators have not yet been evaluated. These are:

- Signature Species (Hard Clam, Osprey, Colonial Nesting Birds, Breeding Birds)
- Watershed Integrity

(b) Secondary Indicators

The 21 Secondary Indicators have yet not been evaluated. Existing monitoring programs that will provide information for the evaluation of these indicators, as well as known information needs and data gaps are all listed in the MPP:

Temperature, pH, Salinity, Dissolved Oxygen, Nutrients, Turbidity, Fecal Coliform/Enterococcus Bacteria, Phytoplankton Abundance and Composition and Chlorophyll A Concentrations, Macrophyte Abundance, Shellfish and Finfish Abundance, Benthic Community Structure, Toxic Contaminants in Aquatic Biota And Sediments, Floatables, Shoreline Habitat/Sensitive Areas, Boating Use, Atmospheric and Other Pollutant Inputs, Rare Plant and Animal Populations, Stream Flow, Water Allocations, Salt Water Intrusion, Turf Grass

(c) Established data gaps

Specific data gaps have been identified relating to particular resource topics. To address these gaps, studies and monitoring are needed to evaluate the following:

- Status of Fishery Resources
- Feasibility of Bay Scallop Restoration
- Sediment Contamination/Toxicity
- Brown Tide – Monitoring/Assessment of Factors Regulating Incidence and Bloom Development
- Habitat and Biotic Community Changes at Barnegat Inlet
- Nonpoint Source Toxics in Barnegat Bay and the Surrounding Watershed
- Identification of the Source of Phosphorous and Nitrogen Inputs
- Identification of Factors Controlling Turbidity

Pre-proposals should be no more than 2 pages in length and use the following format:

- Title of pre-proposal
- Lead organization
- Background and justification statement
- Relevance to program priorities (include specific references to CCMP Action Items, Monitoring Program Plan Objectives, and/or Data Gaps)

- Degree of leveraging, partnering and source of match funding
- Statement on education and outreach potential or applications
- Detailed budget
- Partners and their contributions
- One page CV for principal investigator(s), exclusive of the 2 page limit

Please Note:

- **Pre-proposals will be reviewed by the BBNEP to evaluate program relevance.**
- **Projects deemed relevant to the program priorities will advance to full proposal.**
- **Full proposals will be no more than 4 pages in length plus budget and CV.**
- **Full proposals will be mailed to disciplinary experts for review of technical merit.**
- **PIs will be required to present full proposals to the BBNEP.**
- **The BBNEP will rank proposals and make final recommendations to the Policy Committee. (Final proposals will be ranked based upon the following evaluation criteria: technical merit, relevance to CCMP goals and objectives, education and outreach potential, leveraging, and qualifications of PIs.)**

An electronic copy of your pre-proposal must be emailed to bscro@ocean.edu by 5:00 PM on Monday, February 13, 2006.

About the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program

The National Estuary Program was established by Congress in 1987 to promote comprehensive planning, conservation, and management of nationally significant estuaries threatened by pollution, development or overuse, and to encourage the preparation of management plans for those estuaries.

The Barnegat Bay estuarine system was accepted into the program in 1996. A Management Conference was convened to ensure full participation in the development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the estuary, and in May 2002, the plan was approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program is one of only 28 estuary programs in the United States and Puerto Rico that has been accepted into the program.

Who Can Apply

Pre-proposals are welcome from organizations and government agencies in the Barnegat Bay Watershed, including the following:

1. Universities or colleges;

2. Governmental or public agencies within the Barnegat Bay Watershed;
3. Private businesses and professional organizations whose activities affect the Barnegat and Little Egg Harbor Bays; and
4. Not for profits.

Note: Only one pre-proposal may be submitted per applicant. Partnering with other organizations is strongly encouraged.

Applicants must be able to provide the appropriate evidence of liability insurance and be able to indemnify and hold harmless the BBNEP from all claims for proposed project activities.

Funding Guidelines

- Requested salary costs must not exceed 15% of the total requested from BBNEP. (**Note:** Salary percentage will be a factor in ranking proposals; however, if your project requires a higher salary percentage than 15%, please document why.)
- Funds are available for project-specific expenses only and not for general operating expenses or overhead expenses. Pre-Proposals seeking funds for ongoing administrative support of established programs will not receive consideration.
- Receipt of a signed fully executed Agreement will be required for initial partial payment of 30% of award amount.
- Reports will be required for installment payments of a second payment (50%) and 20% upon completion.
- A final report with detailed descriptions, final budget (including match), and all receipts and visuals (photos/video) of the project, are required from each grant recipient before final payment is made. This report and its attachments become the property of the BBNEP.
- Except in special circumstances, final reports are **due 1 year** after award is made.
- **Projects must include specific recognition of the funding provided by the BBNEP.**
- The federal grant amount cannot exceed 50% of total project costs. The applicant must provide a minimum of 100% in matching funds or in-kind services from other non-federal sources.
- Additional consideration will be given to pre-proposals which provide more than the minimum match since this will increase the efforts made possible through the limited available funding.
- **Note:** An EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan is required before the commencement of environmental data collection via monitoring, sampling, and/or analysis.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Bob Scro at 732.255.0472 or bscro@ocean.edu.